



MPH 522 – Assessment essay (Clinical governance and healthcare quality)

Write an essay of no more than **1500 words** on:

- EITHER: **Clinical governance**
- OR: **Monitoring the quality of health services**

Clinical governance:

Describe the key elements of a comprehensive system of clinical governance in a hospital or other healthcare institution, giving practical examples and discussing any difficulties of implementation.

There are a couple of web resources that you may find useful:

<https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/clinical-governance-components.htm> - University Hospitals Birmingham is one of the largest hospital groups in the UK so this gives a view of clinical governance in operation today

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1113460/> - this is a paper from the very early days of the clinical governance movement; Donaldson went on to become Chief Medical Officer of England

Monitoring the quality of healthcare services:

Describe methods and measures used in your own or other healthcare jurisdiction to assess the quality of healthcare services, indicating the strengths and weaknesses of each method or measure.

You can explore these web resources for ideas and commentary:

<http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/health-care-quality-indicators.htm>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK2664/>

Your essay should include the following elements:

- A definition of key terms (e.g. 'clinical governance' or 'quality')
- A clear structure or framework for your discussion (a good set of headings will help with this)
- Critical awareness – your essay should do more than just set out concepts or theories: you should also discuss their strengths and weaknesses.

- Application to real life – you should try as far as you can to give practical, concrete examples, from your own health care setting or health system, which illustrate how your theories or concepts work in real life.

Submission, assessment and feedback

- The Report (Word document) will have to be submitted via **Moodle**.
- **Deadline** for submission: **Friday, December 02nd 2022 at 11:59pm (CY Time)**
- A **Marksheet** with specific marking criteria will be used to assess each student separately (see Annex at the end of this document).
- Written feedback will be provided.
- The report contributes towards **15% of the overall grade** of the MPH-522 course.

Annex: Marking grid

	Poor	Good	Very good	Outstanding	Grade
Definition (5 marks)	0 - 1 mark No definitions given, or very limited definition	2 – 3 marks Clear definition of key terms	4 marks Alternative definitions given with explanations	5 marks Wide ranging definitions given with discussion	
Structure (15 marks)	1-4 marks Essay incoherent with limited or no structure	5 – 9 marks The essay has a clear structure	10 – 12 marks The essay has a clear and logical structure	13 – 15 marks Clear, logical structure to the essay with a good flow of argument	
Critical awareness (15 marks)	1 – 4 marks No or limited awareness of strengths and weaknesses of concepts or methods	5 – 9 marks Clear awareness of strengths and weaknesses of concepts or methods	10 – 12 marks Very good awareness of strengths and weaknesses of concepts or methods	13 – 15 marks Outstanding awareness of strengths and weaknesses of concepts or methods, including discussion of the published literature	
Application to real life (15 marks)	1 – 4 marks No or limited application of theory and concepts to real life examples	5 – 9 marks Clear application of theory and concepts to real life examples	10 – 12 marks Very good application of theory and concepts to real life examples	13 – 15 marks Outstanding application of theory and concepts to real life examples	
				Final grade (out of 50)	